

## Which Modal Particles are Most Multimodal?

In previous research, it has been shown that modal particles (or 'downtoning particles') in spoken German tend to co-occur with particular gesture patterns. These gestures can have a downtoning function just like the particles (headshakes, so-called intersubjective deictics, the so-called purse hand etc.), but it is also possible to find correlations in the use with non-downtoning gestures which can highlight the verbal particle or cooperate in the process of toning the utterance down (so-called conduit metaphor gestures, referential deictics, etc.) (Schoonjans forthc.).

However, not all particles are equally likely to be combined with such gestures. Furthermore, some particles tend to co-occur more often with downtoning gestures, while others show a stronger correlation with the non-downtoning ones. The aim of this talk is to get a better view of these inter-particle differences. On the basis of a video-corpus analysis focusing on seven German particles (*denn*, *doch*, *eben*, *eigentlich*, *einfach*, *halt*, and *ja*), differences in gesture frequency will be discussed and the question will be raised which factors may explain these differences. Factors to be mentioned include the generality/specificity of the particle's meaning, the degree of grammaticalization of the particle, and the precise function of the particle (mainly downtoning or mainly connecting). Also, the role of more general setting- and context-related factors determining whether a gesture is realized or not will be referred to.

Schoonjans, Steven. [forthc.]. "Gestische Modalpartikeln oder Modalpartikelgesten? Zur Kookkurrenz von Modalpartikeln und Gestikmustern im Deutschen." in: Sonnenhauser, Barbara, Caroline Trautmann & Patrizia Noel Aziz Hanna (eds.). *Interaktionen*. [on-line publication, LMU Munich].